



AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION AGENDA
Regular Meeting – Monday, July 16, 2007
City Hall Council Chambers
Room 1001

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – 6:31 P.M.

Commissioners present: Barnes, Canann, Cunningham, Harman, Malik, Pennington, Willenzik

Commissioners absent: Graze, Jiménez

Staff present: Beekley, Crigger, Kitch, Pantel

1. Approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2007.

Minutes approved

B. CITIZEN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Donna Wetegrove of TIPS on Arts discussed a collaboration of artwork that her group and Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review were displaying at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. There are five exhibits at the glass pillars past the security gates. The theme of the artwork is home, broadly defined. The exhibit just went up and will be there until October. There is also a Phase II on a 40 foot wall east of the gates. For many of the artists, this was their first time collaborating beyond their discipline. TIPS on Art will catalogue all of the artwork so the general public can also see it.

The commissioners offered some advice on cataloguing the artworks. Commissioner Willenzik was on an airport design team and was glad to see the pillars being put to good use.

Chair Pennington invited those watching the televised meeting to attend the meetings in person so they could also share their thoughts and events with the Arts Commission and the general public.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Pennington noted there are many artistic opportunities through UT. She attended a Doctorate recital for Geraldo Antonio Ramos, a student from Mexico, which was beautiful. He will perform again and Chair Pennington will let the other commissioners know when he does so.

D. COMMITTEE AND BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Guidelines Committee: Commissioner Barnes gave kudos to the Cultural Arts Division staff for having proposed changes ready for the committee to review.

Funding Committee: Commissioner Willenzik also thanked staff for having different funding scenarios ready for the committee to consider.

Commissioner Cunningham, who served on both committees, agreed, saying the staff help made for an efficient review.

Chair Pennington was glad to see staff and commissioners working well together since that had not always been the case in the past.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Action Items

a. Update and possible action on the Selection Process for the African American Firefighters' Memorial Project.

On December 18, 2006 the Arts Commission approved a selection process to commission an artist to create a memorial to the first three African American firefighters hired by the City of Austin.

On April 24, 2007, a planning meeting with representatives from each of the three firefighters' families, Fire Department representatives, project advisers, and AIPP staff provided input on the artist selection process to date. The following responses to three posed questions supplied input on values and goals for the project:

- Why is this project important?
 - To acknowledge tradition and history of firefighters and the event in history to be recognized.
 - To provide an opportunity to tell the story of these three men, both their struggles and accomplishments, and how they paved the way for future generations.
 - To serve as a hallmark of the Texas Civil Rights Movement.
- Who is it for?
 - Children/teens
 - African American community
 - Current and future firefighters
 - Everyone – citizens
- What message do you want expressed?
 - The men's struggle, sacrifice, strength, and courage as the first African American firefighters and pioneers during the Civil Rights Movement
 - These men portrayed as well-educated, as role models, and as family men with a sense of duty to their community
 - "They were ordinary men who did an extraordinary thing!" – Rodney Green

At their June 9 meeting, the Art in Public Places panel took action to delete language that encouraged integration of innovative materials including film, video, and interactive media, and asked that the above goals be included in the Request for Proposals.

Commissioner Cunningham thanked the AIPP Panel and staff for all their hard work, noting there was lots of community input. She recommended that the project move forward with a call for artists limited to figurative bronze. Commissioner Willenzik agreed, commenting that with the stipulated change, this would probably change from an RFP (Request for Proposals) to an RFQ (Request for Qualifications).

Motion: To recommend issuing an RFQ for figurative bronze work for the African American Firefighters Memorial to be housed at the Carver Museum.

Made by: Willenzik Seconded by: Harman

Discussion: Commissioner Barnes asked if the use of bronze would change the budget. Megan Crigger responded no, that all projects have a given budget they must meet and that since this was still in the proposal stage, any recommended artwork would have to fit in the project budget.

Commissioner Malik asked if there was consensus on the use of bronze from the community. Megan Crigger responded the families wanted the artwork to be in bronze.

Vote called: Passed 6-0, Commissioners Graze and Jiménez absent.

b. Approve Capacity Building and Special Opportunities application recommendations.

Vincent Kitch announced there was still money available for both programs so applications would be accepted next month as long as the project could be completed by September 30, the end of the City's fiscal year.

07 CP 16, Teatro Vivo – Recommended for funding

07 SO 21 SP, Austin Shakespeare Festival/Guy Roberts – Recommended for funding

07 SO 22, Blue Lapis Light – Recommended for funding

07 SO 23, Coalition for Emotional Literacy – Recommended for funding

Commissioner Barnes asked to abstain from voting on the Blue Lapis Light application.

Commissioner Harman was glad to see arts groups coming forward to take advantage of these funding opportunities and thanked them for their contributions to the community.

Commissioner Canann asked how many applications come in that the Arts Commission doesn't see. Vincent Kitch responded that staff works with applicants to make sure the application meets the criteria and is in the correct program, so that the Arts Commission probably sees 99% of incoming applications. Commissioner Canann then asked if applicants are notified if they are not approved. Vincent Kitch replied yes they are and that staff tries to work with them to make it a successful application.

Motion: To approve all Capacity Building and Special Opportunities application recommendations except for Blue Lapis Light for funding.

Made by: Willenzik Seconded by: Barnes

Vote called: Passed 6-0, Commissioners Graze and Jiménez absent.

Motion: To approve Blue Lapis Light's Special Opportunities application for funding.

Made by: Willenzik Seconded by: Malik

Vote called: Passed 5-0-1, Commissioner Barnes abstaining and Commissioners Graze and Jiménez absent.

c. Approve FY 2008 Cultural Arts Funding Programs guidelines revisions.

Vincent Kitch went over the attached handout.

There was discussion about clarifications concerning the new programs: applicants already receiving Cultural Arts Funding Programs (CAFP) money would not be able to apply in Community Initiatives; and organizations may receive funding from other sources in Community Collaborations, they just can't get funding through CAFP for a project that is already receiving CAFP funding.

Clarification was also sought on deleting the three funding priorities: the information is still asked about and addressed in the criteria and other sections of the guidelines.

Commissioner Barnes, who served on the Guidelines Committee, also noted that the Community Initiatives program would give applicants who did not score high enough to receive funding in the Core programs a chance to get help from staff with their applications and still get a chance to receive funding, thus being as inclusive as possible.

Motion: To approve FY 2008 Cultural Arts Funding Programs guidelines revisions.

Made by: Barnes Seconded by: Willenzik

Vote called: Passed 6-0, Commissioners Graze and Jiménez absent.

d. Approve FY 2008 cultural funding plan.

Commissioners Barnes and Canann were asked to leave the dais while Vincent Kitch went over the attached handout.

Commissioner Willenzik noted the funding plan allowed for growth while trying to limit the yo-yo effects of boom and bust economic cycles.

Commissioner Harman asked if conservative budgeting in a growth year would help if something bad happened to the economy. Commissioner Willenzik replied that the proposed reserve would be 15% instead of 10% (the reserve was 7% around the 2001 bust). Also, the new programs would probably be the first to lose funding, thus somewhat limiting cuts to the Core cultural contracts. Vincent Kitch also mentioned that the funding matrix can be used to equitably handle decreased funding across the board just as it has been used to handle increased funding.

Motion: To approve FY 2008 cultural funding plan.

Made by: Funding Committee

Vote called: Passed 4-0-2, Commissioners Barnes and Canann abstaining and Commissioners Graze and Jiménez absent.

Commissioner Malik thanked the Guidelines and Funding Committees for using the funding matrix – an equitable and fair way to determine funding that was not used when she previously served on the Arts Commission. Vincent Kitch noted that City management and City Council were helpful and involved in overhauling the cultural funding process.

F. STAFF REPORTS

1. Cultural Arts Division Update – Vincent Kitch

Invitations to a CreateAustin reception were included in each commissioner's packet of information. The reception will bring together members of the different task forces, the Leadership Council, the Arts Commission, and City dignitaries as a group.

CreateAustin task force reports are coming in to the City and the Leadership Council will look at the recommendations during a retreat.

Next week, City Council will adopt a policy for a Music Memorial. Cultural Arts Division (CAD) staff have been working with the Music Commission to set up a Music Memorial at the Long Center. Ten people per year will be inducted and there is space for 300 inductees. Nominations will be reviewed in a peer review process similar to the one used for cultural funding.

Suggested funding recommendations from the Texas Commission on the Arts have been released. For subgranting, CAD scored a 980 out of 1000 with a recommended funding amount of \$33,794. For Core Support, which is for such CAD activities as reprinting the Austin Arts book and AIPP public art, CAD scored 1000 out of 1000 with recommended funding around \$12,000, up from \$3,500 last year. The recommended awards will not be final until adopted by the State in early September.

G. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Commissioner Harman thanked Vincent Kitch for all his hard work. She attended a Creative Conversation at Laguna Gloria, where there was a tour and good discussion on the arts and creativity. She has also been attending galleries and museum openings.

Commissioner Canann attended the 4th of July concert the Symphony put on at Zilker Park and also attended an opening at La Peña. At a town hall meeting by HBMG, she discovered there will be space for visual art displays at the Long Center.

Commissioner Barnes reminded the Arts Commission to keep the reception with cultural contractors in mind. Vincent Kitch is working on a time and place to hold the reception.

H. ADJOURN – 7:45 PM